

remain keenly aware of the threats to our country. Those in authority should take appropriate precautions to protect our citizens. But we will not allow this enemy to win the war by changing our way of life or restricting our freedoms.

This morning I am sending to Congress a request for emergency funding authority so that we are prepared to spend whatever it takes to rescue victims, to help the citizens of New York City and Washington, DC, respond to this tragedy, and to protect our national security.

I want to thank the Members of Congress for their unity and support. America is united. The freedom-loving nations of the world stand by our side. This will be a monumental struggle of good versus evil, but good will prevail.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:53 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks While Touring Damage at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia *September 12, 2001*

The Secretary and I—first of all, I must tell you I am overwhelmed by the devastation.

I am so grateful for the people who are working here. We're here to say thanks to not only the workers on this site but the workers who are doing the same work in New York City. I want to say thanks to the folks who have given blood to the Red Cross. I want to say thanks for the hundreds of thousands of Americans who pray for the victims and their families.

Secretary Rumsfeld told me, when I talked to him, that he felt the blast shake the Pentagon; even though he was on the other side of the building, the building rocked. And now I know why.

Coming here makes me sad, on the one hand; it also makes me angry. Our country will, however, not be cowed by terrorists, by people who don't share the same values we share, by people who are willing to de-

stroy people's lives because we embrace freedom. The Nation mourns, but our Government will go on; the country will function. We are on high alert for possible activity.

But coming here confirms what the Secretary and I both know, that this is a great nation. People here working hard prove it; people out here working their hearts out to answer families' questions, to remove the rubble and debris from this office. I want to thank everybody not only on this site but all across America for responding so generously, so kindly, in their prayers, in their contributions of love and their willingness to help in any way they can.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:53 p.m. at the site of the attack. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.